

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A vapor decontamination system for decontaminating a defined region, said system comprising:
 - a chamber defining a region;
 - a generator for generating vaporized hydrogen peroxide from a solution of hydrogen peroxide and water;
 - a closed loop circulating system for supplying said vaporized hydrogen peroxide to said region, said closed loop circulating system defining a first fluid path;
 - a destroyer for breaking down said vaporized hydrogen peroxide disposed within said first fluid path upstream of said generator;
 - a bypass conduit bypassing said destroyer having a first end fluidly connected to said first fluid path between said region and said destroyer and a second end fluidly connected to said first flow path between said destroyer and said generator; and
 - a controller operable to cause substantially all of said vaporized hydrogen peroxide generated by said generator to bypass said destroyer during a predetermined phase of operation.
2. (original) A vapor decontamination system as defined in claim 1, wherein said controller is programmed to include a drying phase of operation, a conditioning phase of operation, a decontamination phase of operation and an aeration phase of operation.
3. (currently amended) A vapor decontamination system as defined in claim 2, wherein said controller causes substantially all of said vaporized hydrogen peroxide to bypass said destroyer during said conditioning phase.

4. (original) A vapor decontamination system as defined in claim 1, further comprising an air dryer downstream from said destroyer.

5. (currently amended) A decontamination system for decontaminating a region, said system having

a generator for generating vaporized hydrogen peroxide,

a closed loop system for supplying the vaporized hydrogen peroxide to said region,

a destroyer for breaking down the vaporized hydrogen peroxide, disposed upstream of said generator in a first fluid path,

a bypass conduit for causing fluid to flow through said closed loop system such that substantially all of said vaporized hydrogen peroxide generated by said generator bypasses said destroyer, said bypass conduit having a first end connected to said first fluid path between said region and said destroyer and a second end fluidly connected to said first flow path between said destroyer and said generator, and

a controller for controlling fluid flow through said bypass conduit.

Claim 6 (canceled)

7. (previously presented) A decontamination system as defined in claim 5, further comprising valve means for controlling flow through either said first fluid flow path or said second fluid flow path.

8. (currently amended) A decontamination system as defined in claim 7, wherein said controller causes substantially all of said vaporized hydrogen peroxide fluid to flow through said second fluid flow path during a conditioning phase of said system.

9. (original) A decontamination system as defined in claim 8, wherein said system includes an air dryer where said air dryer is part of said first fluid flow path.

10. (currently amended) A closed loop, flow-through vapor phase decontamination system, comprising:

a sealable chamber having an inlet port and an outlet port;

a closed loop conduit system having a first end fluidly connected to said inlet port and a second end fluidly connected to said outlet port;

a blower connected to said conduit system for re-circulating a carrier gas flow into, through and out of the chamber;

a source for delivering vaporized sterilant into said carrier gas flow upstream of said inlet port;

a destroyer downstream of said outlet port for destroying the vaporized sterilant;

wherein said blower, said source for delivering vaporized sterilant, and said destroyer are disposed within a first fluid path;

a bypass conduit for directing said carrier gas flow~~said vaporized sterilant~~ through said closed loop conduit system and only through a second fluid path around said destroyer, said bypass conduit having one end connected to said first fluid path between said destroyer and said outlet port, wherein said blower and said source for delivering said vaporized sterilant are disposed within said second fluid path; and

a controller for controlling flow through said bypass conduit.

11. (previously presented) A system as defined in claim 10, wherein said sterilant is vaporized hydrogen peroxide.

12. (currently amended) A system as defined in claim 11, wherein said controller directs flow only through said second fluid flow path during a conditioning phase of operation.

13. (original) A system as defined in claim 10, further comprising an air dryer disposed downstream from said destroyer.

14. (original) A system as defined in claim 13, wherein said blower is disposed downstream from said chamber, between said destroyer and said chamber.